



WHAT IS PROFESSIONALISM?

Professionalism is the conduct, aims, or qualities that characterize or mark a profession or a professional person; the skill, good judgment, and polite behavior that is expected from a person who is trained to do a job well.

Professionalism consists of certain attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors sometimes known collectively as “virtue” or “good character.” Attitudes and behaviors have two things in common. First, both are produced by our beliefs. Second, we have the power to choose our attitudes and behaviors.

WHO WE ARE

The Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism (CJCP) is composed of members appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina representing its four constituencies: appellate and trial judges, law faculty, practicing lawyers and the public. It is chaired by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina or his/her designee. The CJCP is administered by a full-time executive director and an administrative officer.

CJCP’s mission is to foster professionalism within the North Carolina legal community through creation, organization, and participation in a wide variety of activities and programs designed to fulfill its charge: to enhance professionalism among North Carolina lawyers, judges, and law students. It accomplishes this by supporting and engaging in activities throughout North Carolina and the United States that promote appropriate professional behavior required by all North Carolina lawyers in the Rules of Professional Conduct, respect for others, and a commitment to the values underpinning the rule of law and administration of justice.

WHO WE SERVE

The CJCP provides programming and support for all North Carolina lawyers, judges, and law students.

WHAT WE DO

Presentations and Programs

Provide CLE programs and presentations, training for judges and lawyers, law school professionalism programs and presentations, and Judicial District Bar Professionalism programs throughout the state for local bar members.

Conferences & Service

Represent North Carolina at national professionalism-related boards, programs, and conferences such as the American Bar Association, Center for Professional Responsibility, and the National Legal Mentoring Conference.

Publications

Contribute materials for publication addressing professionalism issues, trends, and initiatives.

Policy Recommendations

Recommend and lobby for measures designed to strengthen State Bar CLE professionalism requirements and for policies impacting North Carolina lawyers' quality of life (e.g., Secured Leave for attorneys).

Grants & Sponsorships

Sponsor events and provide financial assistance to organizations in support of activities promoting professionalism.

Profiles in Professionalism and the Historical Video Series

Video interviews of North Carolina lawyers maintained as an oral history project.

Chief Justice's Professionalism Award

Annual award given by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina to outstanding North Carolina lawyers, judges, citizens, or programs that exhibit the principles of professionalism throughout their careers.

Professionalism Support Initiative (PSI)

A confidential peer intervention program for North Carolina lawyers and judges to address conduct that does not conform to norms of professionalism required by the North Carolina legal community but otherwise does not constitute a violation of the North Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct or the Code of Judicial Conduct.

Judicial Response Committee

A committee of highly respected former North Carolina jurists which responds to unwarranted attacks against North Carolina judges in the media.

Law School Ambassador Program

Collaborative program with North Carolina law schools offering distinguished third-year law students the opportunity to serve on the CJCP in their final year of law school.